

WEATHER FORECAST.
Rain and cooler to-day; to-morrow fair;
moderate shifting winds.
Highest temperature yesterday, 77; lowest, 60.
Detailed weather reports on last page.

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PRICE TWO CENTS.

WILSON FLATLY REJECTS VIENNA PEACE PLAN; ALLIES STAND FIRM WITH U. S. ON WAR AIMS; AMERICANS CONTINUE ADVANCE IN LORRAINE

PRESIDENT'S QUICK REPLY ENDS PROPAGANDA DRIVE; ISSUED AS NOTE ARRIVES

Briefest Diplomatic Message on Record Penned After Game of Golf.

CONTAINS 68 WORDS

Wilson Acts as Spokesman for Allies, Who Agree on America's Aims.

WASHINGTON APPLAUDS

Swift Action, Not Expected, Will Stifle Foe's Plans to Becloud Situation.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—American answer to the Austrian proposal for a confidential and unbinding peace discussion was given to the world to-night only a few minutes after the Swedish Minister had stepped out of an elevator at the State Department and delivered the official text of the note to Secretary Lansing.

The answer, as predicted in THE SUN this morning, is a flat rejection of the Austrian proposal. Written by the President himself, it is the briefest diplomatic note on record, virtually consisting of but a single sentence.

"It (the United States) has repeatedly and with entire candor stated the terms upon which the United States would consider peace and can and will entertain no proposal for a conference upon a matter concerning which it has made its position and purpose so plain."

In this single sentence President Wilson demolishes the Teuton plan and brings the Government of Austria-Hungary back to the realization that there can be but one means of obtaining consideration for her peace plan, namely, acceptance in advance of the basic principles already enunciated by the President, endorsed by the Allies, and for the fulfillment of which all the military strength of the United States and the Allies will be exerted regardless of time or cost.

President's Terms of Peace.

The President, as he explains in the reply, has made repeated references to terms upon which the United States would consider peace. The most detailed statement by the President is found in his speech of January 8 made to Congress, which, summarized, is:

1. The methods of establishing co-operation of peace.
2. The freedom of navigation.
3. The removal of economic barriers.
4. The reduction of armament.
5. The adjustment of colonial claims.
6. The future of Russia.
7. The evacuation, restoration and future safety of Belgium.
8. The restoration of invaded French territory and the righting of the wrong done to France in the matter of Alsace-Lorraine.
9. A readjustment of the frontiers of Italy along "clearly recognizable lines of nationality."
10. Free opportunity of autonomous development for the peoples of Austria-Hungary.
11. The evacuation of Rumania, Serbia and Montenegro and other Balkan reforms.
12. Assurance of security to non-Turkish nationalities under Turkish rule.
13. An independent Polish state.
14. A "general association of nations" to guarantee "political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike."

In his reply the President is speaking for the Allies as well as the United States. Exchanges of views have for some time established the fact that the Entente Governments and the United States are at one in their attitude toward the anticipated Teuton peace offensive, in no matter what guise it came.

President Allies' Spokesman.

President Wilson has been accepted as the spokesman. The Allies may not have known the exact form of the President's reply would take, but they knew in advance its substance and they expected him to lead the way. It may be taken as an added evidence of the political unity of the Allies, now a feature of the struggle.

A note containing the brief reply without change except for the usual diplomatic introduction will be handed to-morrow to the Swedish Minister for despatch to Vienna. For America the incident will then be closed.

On all sides were heard to-night enthusiastic approval of the President's answer and the clarity with which it had been made. Few if any, even at the Capitol, had expected such speedy and decisive action. So speedy, in fact, was

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President Says America Will Consider Peace Only on the Terms Already Stated

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—Secretary Lansing issued this statement to-day:

I am authorized by the President to state that the following will be the reply of this Government to the Austro-Hungarian note proposing an unofficial conference of belligerents:

The Government of the United States feels that there is only one reply which it can make to the suggestion of the Imperial Austro-Hungarian Government. It has repeatedly and with entire candor stated the terms upon which the United States would consider peace, and can and will entertain no proposal for a conference upon a matter concerning which it has made its position and purpose so plain.

BALFOUR FINDS NO PEACE BASIS

Fails to See Object in Proposed Informal Conversations With Austria.

AIMS TOO WELL KNOWN

Von Payer's Speech Presents Final Obstacles, Says British Statesman.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—Arthur J. Balfour, the British Foreign Secretary, in an address to visiting foreign journalists to-day, denounced the Austrian peace proposals as a trap. He was careful to state that he spoke as an individual, as he had had no opportunity to consult his colleagues in the Government, but his speech is taken as a definition of the attitude of the Entente Powers.

While it is practically certain that the proposals from Vienna will be studied carefully by the Allies, Mr. Balfour's remark, which is almost universally expressed by the newspapers and in diplomatic circles, when he said that "so far as he had been able to study the Austrian note he could not see the smallest hope that the goal the Allies desired to reach, the goal of a peace which should be more than a truce, could really be attained" on the basis offered by Vienna. He said:

"Until those who represent the destinies of Germany, whether they be the headquarters staff, or the Emperor, or the Chancellor, or the Vice-Chancellor, or the Reichstag, whoever the governing forces may be, are prepared to show at least an open mind, prepared to see that solution in conformity with what the co-belligerents believe to be justice, civilization and right, mere conversations on peace would be fruitless."

ATTEMPT TO SPLIT ALLIES, IS THEORY

Balfour Calls Austrian Proposal Cynical.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—"It is incredible that anything can come of this proposal."

This statement by Arthur J. Balfour, British Foreign Secretary, emphasized by him as the personal expression of his viewpoint on the Austrian peace note, reflects the opinion of Great Britain on the new peace adventure by the Central Powers.

The Austrian communication has not been presented formally to the British Government, although the Foreign Office yesterday received a copy from its representatives in neutral capitals. Pending its official receipt no official comment will be made. The Swedish Minister in London expects the arrival of the note momentarily, and immediately upon its receipt will hand it to the Foreign Office.

Foreign Secretary Balfour gave his opinion of the peace manoeuvre to the visiting journalists to-day, saying:

"I cannot honestly see in the proposals now made to us as I have been able to study them the slightest hope that the goal we all desire—the goal of peace which shall be more than a truce—can really be attained."

Mr. Balfour said he agreed with the Austrian note when its authors pointed out that the whole of civilization was at stake and that the prolongation of hostilities was a risk of sacrificing of a great deal that was really dear to everybody interested in the progress of

Continued on Fifth Page.

ALLIES STRIKE IN MACEDONIA

French and Serbians Open Attack Between the Vardar and Monastir.

THEY ADVANCE 9 MILES

Captures Nearly 1,000 Bulgarians and Ten Guns in Initial Blow.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—Another offensive blow has been struck against the Austro-Germans, this time in the Balkans. In this high, mountainous country the reorganized Serbian army, reinforced by the French, has struck and a brilliant success followed its first action.

In the initial blow the French-Serbian army advanced nine miles into the Bulgarian lines, took almost 1,000 prisoners and captured ten guns. The advance was made in the face of the greatest difficulties, for the country offers the best of natural defences and during the two years and a half of the Bulgarian, German and Austrian troops had occupied it the peaks had been fortified in the most modern way.

MR. MUNSEY AGAINST POLICE TESTIMONIAL

Disapproves Project to Recognize Efforts for Men.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

SEPTEMBER 16, 1918.

JOSEPH P. MORAN, Esq., President, Policemen's Benevolent Association, New York City.

In the Evening World to-day there is an article relating to a notice posted in police stations asking patrolmen to contribute \$1 each for the purchase of a testimonial for Mr. Frank A. Munsey, Police Commissioner, in recognition of the recent increase of the salary of policemen.

In behalf of Mr. Munsey, who is in the Adirondacks, but who has communicated with me over the long distance telephone on the subject, let me say that Mr. Munsey could not under any circumstances approve the collection of money from the police force for any gift, present or other testimonial to him. He appreciates the good will of the police force of New York, but he could not accept anything of the kind, and he asks that his name be immediately taken from the notice posted in the stations.

For his interest in the pay of the New York police, Mr. Munsey has wanted no other return or recognition than the consciousness, which every citizen proud of our police force must appreciate, that he was striving to gain for them only what they themselves had earned. His only regret is that they did not get more, as they deserved, and that all the members of the police force did not share in the salary increase.

Please remove Mr. Munsey's name immediately from the notice and do not permit him to be considered in connection with any gift or token.

Yours very truly,

ERIN WARDMAN, Publisher.

Police Commissioner Enright yesterday also expressed his entire disapproval of the project, though likewise appreciating the good will behind it.

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EDITOR CHAPIN SLAYS HIS WIFE AND DISAPPEARS

"Evening World" Executive Leaves Note Saying He Will Kill Himself.

BELIEVED TO BE INSANE

Had Been Suffering From Nervous Disorder—Police Are Hunting for Him.

Charles E. Chapin, connected with the Pulitzer publishing interests for the last thirty years and for the last twenty years city editor of the Evening World, is being sought by the police for the murder of his wife, whom he shot and killed yesterday as she lay in their apartment at the Hotel Cumberland.

Chapin, in a note to Don C. Seitz, business manager of the World, posted just after he killed his wife, admitted the crime and said that it was his intention to destroy himself. So far the police have been unable to determine whether he did so or lost his nerve and fled from the city.

In his note to Mr. Seitz he said that he felt himself to be on the edge of a nervous breakdown and could not face the prospect of ending his days in a sanitarium.

"So I have resolved to end it all," he wrote, "and take Mrs. Chapin with me."

Police Find a Note.

The police found another note on the table in the room where Mrs. Chapin lay dead.

"She is dead. I am going to do the same to myself. Humana."

He left still another note to the hotel management:

"My wife died this A. M. I have been suffering greatly with mental distress and pains and threatened with insanity. My wife died in sleep. She never knew. Please forgive me. I will be dead myself within a few minutes after you receive this."

Chapin appears to have killed his wife at about 9 o'clock in the morning. Just after that hour Frank Carruthers, of the business management of the World, who lives in the Hotel Cumberland, was coming down in the hotel elevator when he met Chapin, who had entered the elevator at another floor. They exchanged a perfunctory greeting and spoke of the weather.

Said Wife Had a Cold.

Chapin had a letter in his hand and said he was going to post it, but would not be down to the World office that day as Mrs. Chapin was confined to her bed with a cold. They separated at the street door and Mr. Carruthers did not see him again.

At a few minutes after 4 o'clock in the afternoon Mr. Seitz received the note telling him that Chapin intended to kill his wife and then himself. It had been posted at Station G, which is a few blocks from the Hotel Cumberland, at 9:15 o'clock, not more than five minutes after Mr. Carruthers and Chapin had met in their hotel, and when Mrs. Chapin must have been already dead. Mr. Seitz notified the police at once.

The police found Mrs. Chapin dead in bed with a bullet hole in the side of her head. A card in Chapin's handwriting pinned to the door read, "Don't disturb." She wore her night dress and apparently had been shot while she was asleep. The note saying that Chapin meant to make away with himself lay on the table beside her. From the fact that no shot of a shot was heard it is supposed that Chapin's pistol was equipped with a silencer.

Seitz Gives Out Extract.

Mr. Seitz gave out the following extract last night from the letter he had received in the afternoon:

"I have been living with my wife for thirty-nine years and have been happy during that time. I am conscious of being on the verge of a nervous breakdown and it is apparent that the time is close when I will completely collapse. When you get this letter I will be dead. My wife has been such a good fellow I cannot leave her alone in the world."

The place which Chapin has selected for his own demise is still unknown to the police. They sought him in his known haunts yesterday, but without result. They talked with a chauffeur who said he had seen him as late as 4 o'clock in the afternoon strolling in the neighborhood of the hotel. Some one else told the police that he thought he had seen Chapin in Battery Park. But neither of these clues developed into anything.

Had Vacation Recently.

Chapin went on a vacation two weeks ago, spending most of it at Brighton Beach, where he went bathing every day. When he returned to his home in the hotel he appeared to be in better than usual health, and before meeting Mr. Carruthers yesterday Chapin told the hotel clerk that his vacation had done him a great deal of good.

At the offices of the World last night it was said that Chapin had been suffering from nervousness for several years and had complained particularly

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WAR DECLARED ON GERMANY BY OMSK SIBERIANS

Classes of 1918 and 1919 Called Out and Are Being Mobilized Rapidly.

BOLSHEVISM DYING OUT

General Gaida Tells of 2,500 Mile Advance of Czech-Slovaks in Three Months.

By the Associated Press.

OLYANNATA, Transbaikalia, Sept. 4 (delayed).—The Siberian Government at Omsk, a fortified town of Asiatic Russia, has declared war on Germany and has ordered the mobilization of the 1918 and 1919 classes, who are making a splendid response.

Bolshevism from Sretensk, in Transbaikalia, to the Volga, in European Russia, is dead. The Bolsheviki leaders in this region have been hanged or have hidden themselves, while the misled Red Guards who are arriving here have renounced Bolshevism forever. The peasants are returning to the fields and the workmen are resuming work at the factories.

A solid foundation is ready to be laid to save Russia from German clutches. The Czech-Slovak leaders say, however, that their forces are merely a hundred compared with the Austro-German legions in Russia, and they feel there are too many odds against them to accomplish what they have in mind of fighting and reorganizing the Russian army by force.

Covered 2,500 Miles in 3 Months.

Four thousand Czech-Slovak troops have fought their way for a distance of more than 2,500 miles in three months. They speak, therefore, they say, from experience, and they contend the facts given should be sufficient grounds for the concentration of Entente allied action, the despatch of troops and munitions by Berlin, and the use of raw material to the Siberian factories.

If the Allies intend to combat the German forces in Russia and to save the Russians from falling under the German yoke it is absolutely essential that troops be sent immediately to the present front against the greatly superior enemy forces which increase daily owing to the mobilization of released Austro-German prisoners. The Bolsheviki Red Guards, he added, would have stopped fighting but for these prisoners, who were ordered to enter the Bolsheviki ranks by Berlin when the situation in Siberia became known there. Berlin also fears untoward happenings in the Ukraine.

Volunteers Pile to Army.

There is unbounded enthusiasm throughout Siberia owing to the deliverance from Bolsheviki rule through the activities of the Czechs. East of the Ural Mountains volunteers are flocking to the Siberian railway to join the new Siberian army.

Gen. Gaida said he believed it would be fatal if the present enthusiasm in Siberia was permitted to die out. In a few months Russia would possess an army capable of driving the Germans to the sea and of liberating the whole of Russia from the grasp of the Central Powers.

Within the territory freed from the Bolsheviki yoke the Czechs are between 300,000 and 400,000 Austro-German prisoners. Formerly they roamed about the country at will, but they now have been placed at useful work.

To guard the prisoners and to protect the railways, lines of communication and important towns a considerable portion of the Czech forces east of the Ural are required. Included in this number is the contingent commanded by Gen. Dietrichs.

It is asserted that there is sufficient

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Soldier Fan of Fund Beats Card Back to Us

AT the Waldorf party for the fund Capt. Sainclair told of the great need of tobacco by American fighting men. His postal card of thanks turns up, having followed him from France and says: "Gifts such as yours are life savers and prove to us the spirit that is behind us at home."

A gift of interesting cards from different fighting units is giving a graphic picture of what is going on in shell ravaged France and adds multiple testimony to the welcome work done by THE SUN Tobacco Fund. Read them on page 7.

WARNING! THE SUN TOBACCO FUND has no connection with any other fund, organization or publication. It employs no agents or solicitors.

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PERSHING'S MEN ADDING TO GAINS ALONG THE MOSELLE

Village of Vandieres Set on Fire and Road Leading to Pagny Heavily Shelled as Army Draws in Sight of Germany.

By HERBERT BAILEY.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from the London Times Service.

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WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN LORRAINE, Sept. 16.—The Americans have made further progress along the west bank of the Moselle River. From a splendid observation post they could be seen yesterday advancing over the green crest hill that slopes down to the river. Parties of two and three went ahead to reconnoitre and the larger groups followed. Several Germans offered opposition and then retired.

I saw in Germany an airmen where

machines were landing, smoking factories and a chateau in the gleam of the sunlight. Shells were dropping in the village, throwing clouds of smoke. Houses in the village of Vandieres were afire and the road that leads from there to Pagny, on the German border, were wreathed in the smoke of exploding shells. The Germans were throwing gas shells into the villages and fields.

In the recent fighting not only were divisional officers and most men of the division captured, but it is stated by prisoners that the Thirty-first German division lost almost all its artillery to the Americans.

HAIL PERSHING AS A DELIVERER

French Throughout Reclaimed District Eager to Show Their Gratitude.

REFUGEES STREAM OUT

In Four Years of Servitude to the Enemy They Were Fed on Lies.

By RAYMOND G. CARROLL.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun and the London Times Service.

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WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN LORRAINE, Sept. 16.—A day spent in the St. Mihiel salient immediately after its occupation, by Franco-American troops under Gen. Pershing, now hailed by the French throughout Lorraine as "the deliverer of St. Mihiel," revealed many interesting incidents. It was his staff which planned and carried out the entire operation.

Hard and rapid maneuvers by our forces, which include French and American cavalry detachments, have emptied the thick woods, deep ditches and other enemy hideouts of their keep, filling our prison cages to overflowing. Amazing sights replete with pathos and grim humor were unfolded in the district held by the Germans four years and not lost to them forever.

I crossed the French and German trench systems a half mile beyond the town of Flirey. It is a dreary, desolate area, where men had lived for days that seemed weeks and months that counted as years like prairie dogs in rabbit holes made by the first designs of skinkiness, ramified by barbed wire, concrete caves and tunnels for purposes of communication and defence.

Enemy Dead Soon Buried.

The trenches have been worn threadbare of interest by countless descriptions, but these muddy, blood stained, zigzag open cuts stretching over the rolling landscape held attention. Over them the American infantry had swept as our boys went to their first great victory on European soil.

Groups of our burial detachments with orange and red tags of cloth pinned upon their shoulders for identification were dragging forth the inanimate forms of Germans and sadly stowing them away for eternity, sowing the surface with mute memorials of another nation's misdeeds.

Other groups of Dixie negroes from the labor regiments and of white men from pioneer and engineer regiments were filling in with stone and earth huge shell holes in the roadway and rapidly throwing bridges over the places where a series of trenches had stretched across the highways.

Two long lines of convoys choked the roads, ammunition and supplies were returning, while along the green carpet of grass on either side trudged doughboys two abreast, some singing, others chatting, details going into the forward positions to relieve their tired comrades, altogether an unforgettable picture.

Passage of the Refugees.

Near Essey-et-Mazerais I saw an altogether different picture of the war, the pathetic passage southward of about 200 refugees.

"We came from the villages of Bouillonville, Lemarche and Nonard," said a venerable priest who headed the column. "There poor people have been prisoners almost since the war began. They are hungry for a sight of the relatives from whom they have been cut off."

His black clerical coat was worn shiny and his wide brimmed hat was battered, yet he carried himself with dignity. He was wearing a pair of German boots that he had picked from a pile of refuse behind the enemy barracks. An aged woman was driving a tiny donkey hauling a cart containing bed clothes, alongside of which trotted a cute donkey colt, so small that the American soldiers crowded around to look at it.

"Can I get to Paris?" asked the old woman. "The Germans told me that the city had been destroyed. I have

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Patrols Cautiously Feel Their Way Toward New Lines of the Enemy.

INFANTRY IS INACTIVE

Heavy Firing in the Vosges Indicates Attack May Be Made in Alsace.

FRENCH MAKE NEW GAIN

British Also Advance Their Lines in Flanders and in Cambrai Region.

PARIS, Sept. 16.—The American First Army operating in Lorraine advanced slowly to-day without fighting over nearly all of the front across the old St. Mihiel salient. There is an intermediate region of some two or three miles between the American and the German lines, and in this area parties from both armies are operating, each side endeavoring to feel out and determine the dispositions of the other. The Germans have made no counter attack and the Americans are edging forward, improving their positions without molestation.

In the afternoon there was more artillery activity by the Germans, which by night became quite strong. It was returned in kind and in double measure by the American guns. It was noticed that an unusually large proportion of the German shells were duds; that is, they failed to explode.

Heavy Firing in Alsace.

At the same time there was unusually heavy gun firing in the Vosges district, far to the southeast, which finally reached such an intensity, the Associated Press observer in that region reports, as to suggest either an approaching attack by the Germans or the fear of an American attack. It was accompanied by an extraordinary amount of signalling and many airplanes appeared in the sky; ten flew over St. Die, the observer says, and twenty over another town.

Activity on the fronts in Picardy and Flanders is increasing somewhat with an improvement in the weather, and important gains were made both by the French and the British, all of a kind that will be of material assistance when the armies resume their active advance.

Rhine Towns Are Bombed.

The Associated Press correspondent with the American army on the Lorraine front says that British airplanes, which are cooperating with American squadrons on this front, flew far back of the enemy lines to-day and bombed aerodromes at several places. Some of the long distance flyers passed over Karlsruhe and Mainz, dropping five and a half tons of explosives.

Eleven tons of bombs were dropped on the aerodromes at Longuyon, Boulay, Marange and Ilohm.

French an Italian units cooperated with American squadrons in carrying out these missions, in addition to which patrolling and photographic work was successfully conducted.

Enemy airplanes attacked points within the American lines last night. Bombs were dropped on St. Mihiel and the Germans used their machine guns against that town, but with little effect.

Entire Artillery Park Captured.

Reports from different points along the line show that the number of guns and the general situation captured by the Americans is increasing. An entire artillery park was captured at Jaulny.

Austrian prisoners captured by the Americans are bitter in their denunciation of the Germans. They accuse the Germans of leaving them in the lurch. Austrian officers declare they were not warned of the American attack and that repeated requests for ammunition were ignored. The Germans, they add, gave their entire attention to extricating themselves from the salient.

German infantry has been observed consolidating positions at La Chaussee though in preparation for a counter attack, although none so far has developed. Near this point the enemy is occupying shell holes.

The German artillery fire is limited chiefly to guns of 77 and 105 millimeter calibre. The Germans also are active in constructing machine gun nests at various points of the line.

Knew Salient Couldn't Hold.

A German officer captured by the Americans makes interesting revelations concerning the St. Mihiel salient. He says that its continued holding by the Germans would have been a piece of unsoldierly pretentiousness which was only persisted in from political necessity.

He was very angry about it and asserted that representations had been made to the Great General Staff as to the impossibility of holding the salient with the troops assigned to it in the face of the American concentration which was known to be taking place. But at the time it was supposed that the occasion was not propitious for attacking the Germans, and any readjust-

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Baker Arrives in London.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—Newton D. Baker, the American Secretary of War, arrived in London to-day from Paris.

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